

## Bagley, Melissa

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**From:** Curtis, Glenn  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 05, 2013 10:07 AM  
**To:** Jay, Michael; Shields, Amy; Mindrup, Mary; Abbo, Sam; Delashmit, John; Huffman, Diane; Kovac, Steve; Flournoy, Karen; Green, Jamie; Delashmit, John  
**Subject:** 4-state meeting - Conference Call

See below the agenda the states have requested, in the order of importance to them. Much of this is really just the latest news from EPA, and what we know at this time. And then ask them how's it going on their end and how they are coping in these economic, etc. times.

### EPA – Federal Update:

1. EPA Budget in general, what we know.  
What will the next sequestration look like? Are states able to meet state match and adequately staff programs in the wake of state and federal cutbacks?

2. The latest on 8<sup>th</sup> circuit decision and EPAs next step. See HQ Desk Statement below

**Iowa League of Cities v EPA**, Desk Statement, November 19, 2013

The Eighth Circuit's interpretation in Iowa League of Cities v EPA of EPA's regulations relating to blending and bypass is legally binding within the Eighth Circuit. Outside of the Eighth Circuit, EPA will continue to work with States and communities with the goal of finding solutions that protect public health and the environment while recognizing economic constraints and feasibility concerns, consistent with the Agency's existing interpretation of the regulations.

3. Provide R7's take on the Draft 2014-2018 Strategic Plan and what it could mean to states in simple, straightforward terms.
4. What is the latest on the Water of the US rule. States suggested a discussion of the potential impacts of the rule and What is R7s take on the proposed rule would mean to R7 States  
It was noted that Earlier EPA had acknowledged that the WoUS guidance/rule would be an expansion of the current universe. Now the press (Energy Guardian) reports AA Stoner indicated the following:  
*Stoner reiterated EPA's stance that the proposal will comply with Supreme Court rulings that required the agency to reduce the scope of waters subject to agency permitting.*
5. *She said the plan, developed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, "means that EPA's jurisdiction will only include the protection of the same waters that have historically been covered under the Clean Water Act for the past 40 years – in fact, it will be a smaller set of waters than before the Supreme Court decision," she said.*
6. What is the status of Water AA appointment? Any insight on Kopocis?
7. The latest Climate Change Initiative : EPA (read ahead <http://epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/fed-programs/EPA-impl-plans.html>)
8. Update on 319

## 9. State Production of TMDLs

### States Talk: State Update:

Their budgets, outlook for the future

How much do states rely on SRF Admin \$? What would be the plan if the House-published CWSRF cut of 83% and PWSRF cut of 62%; or the President's 20% and 7.5% cuts, respectively, took place?

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**From:** Jay, Michael  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 04, 2013 8:59 AM  
**To:** Shields, Amy; Mindrup, Mary  
**Cc:** Curtis, Glenn  
**Subject:** RE: Communities Information Digest

Amy,

I have a draft email prepared to send out but want to touch base with Karen tomorrow. I would revise our message to include anything more Glenn gets back or anything else BCs want to talk about.

Agenda:

- 1) The latest Climate Change Initiative : EPA (read ahead <http://epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/fed-programs/EPA-impl-plans.html>)
- 2) State production of TMDLs : EPA and States
- 3) 319 : EPA and States
- 4) Funding Update : EPA (Karen download from national discussions)

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**From:** Shields, Amy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 04, 2013 8:25 AM  
**To:** Shields, Amy; Mindrup, Mary

**Cc:** Jay, Michael

**Subject:** RE: Communities Information Digest

I just saw it posted in the larger HQ link... sorry I somehow missed that in the bulleted list. The region 7 folks will just need to access the link below and click on region 7.

**Draft EPA Office of Water Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plan Released for Public Review and Comment**

EPA has released its draft Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plans for public review and comment, including the plan of the Office of Water. The implementation plans provide detailed information about the actions EPA plans to take to help communities adapt to a changing climate. The impacts of a changing climate, including increased extreme weather, floods, and droughts, affect EPA's work to protect clean air and water. The Draft EPA Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plans recognize that EPA must integrate climate adaptation planning into its programs, policies, rules, and operations to ensure that the Agency's work continues to be effective even as the climate changes. The Office of Water's Plan provides an overview of the opportunities available within the EPA to respond to the challenges that a changing climate poses to protect the quality of national water resources and drinking water. The public comment period closes on January 3, 2014. For more information, visit the [EPA Adaptation Implementation Plans page](#).

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**From:** Shields, Amy

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 04, 2013 8:21 AM

**To:** Mindrup, Mary

**Cc:** Jay, Michael

**Subject:** FW: Communities Information Digest

Mary, this is the communities digest that I was talking about yesterday. Do you think we should add the R7 climate change information and due date for response for comments?

**Amy R. Shields, Ph.D.** | US EPA Region 7; Lenexa, KS | Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division | 913-551-7396 | [shields.amy@epa.gov](mailto:shields.amy@epa.gov)



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**From:** Vaughn, Tegan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 04, 2013 8:19 AM  
**Subject:** Communities Information Digest

# U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 7)

## Communities Information Digest

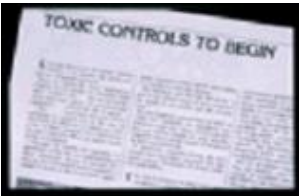
**\*Has this edition of the digest been forwarded to you by a friend or colleague? Would you like to sign up to receive future digests?**

If so, please send an email to Tegan Vaughn, [vaughn.tegan@epa.gov](mailto:vaughn.tegan@epa.gov). Thank you!\*

**December 4, 2013**

Find us @ [www.facebook.com/eparegion7](https://www.facebook.com/eparegion7) or <https://twitter.com/eparegion7>.

**Note: New items are in \*asterisks\*.**



# News

**\*Building Blocks Technical Assistance Available to Communities, Deadlines: December 6 and 20\***

Smart Growth America and Global Green USA are soliciting applications for technical assistance, which is available under grants EPA awarded to these two organizations through the Office of Sustainable Communities' [Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities](#) grant program. (Listen to the [November 6 webinar](#) about both offerings.)

Global Green USA's technical assistance is based on the LEED for Neighborhood Development standard, which provides a nationally recognized method for creating neighborhoods that are walkable, bikeable, resource-efficient, and equitable. At the conclusion of the assistance, the team will provide recommendations for both physical and policy changes that can enhance neighborhood sustainability.

[View the application.](#) Applications are due to Global Green by Friday, December 20, 2013, 6 PM PST (3 PM EST).

Smart Growth America is offering 12 different technical assistance workshops:

- Implementing smart growth 101
- Planning for economic and fiscal health
- Regional planning for small communities
- Sustainable land use code audit
- Smart growth zoning codes for small cities
- Complete streets
- Walkability workshop/audit
- Transportation performance measurement
- Parking audit
- Implementing transit-oriented development 101
- Cool planning: local strategies to slow climate change
- Using LEED-ND to accelerate the development of sustainable communities

[View the application.](#) Applications are due to Smart Growth America by Friday, December 6, 2013, 5:00 PM EST.

**\*11th Annual P3 Awards: A National Student Design Competition for Sustainability Focusing on People, Prosperity and the Planet (Energy), Deadline: December 17\***

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of the P3-People, Prosperity and the Planet Award Program, is seeking applications proposing to research, develop, and design solutions to real world challenges involving the overall sustainability of human society. The P3 competition highlights the use of scientific principles in creating innovative projects focused on sustainability. The P3 Award program was developed to foster progress toward sustainability by achieving the mutual goals of improved quality of life for its people, economic prosperity and protection of the planet -- people, prosperity, and the planet – the three pillars of sustainability. The EPA offers the P3 competition in order to respond to the technical needs of the world while moving towards the goal of sustainability. Please see the P3 website (<http://www.epa.gov/P3>) for more details about this program.

**\*DOT and HUD Unveil Location Affordability Portal -New Tool Provides Renters and Homeowners with Housing and Transportation Calculator\***

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan unveiled the [Location Affordability Portal](http://www.locationaffordability.info/) (LAP), a new cost calculation tool that allows users to estimate housing and transportation costs for neighborhoods across the country. The LAP will help consumers and communities better understand the combined costs of housing and transportation associated with living in a specific region, street, or neighborhood and make better-informed decisions about where to live, work, and invest. The LAP hosts two cutting-edge data tools: the Location Affordability Index (LAI) and My Transportation Cost Calculator (MTCC). The map-based LAI is a database of predicted annual housing and transportation costs for a particular area. The LAI includes diverse household profiles—which vary by income, size, and number of commuters—and shows the affordability landscape for each one across an entire region. It was designed to help renters and homeowners, as well as planners, policymakers, developers, and researchers, get a more complete understanding of the costs of living in a location given the differences between households, neighborhoods, and regions, all of which impact affordability. The data covers 94% of the U.S. population. View the portal at: <http://www.locationaffordability.info/>.

**\*Energy Department Announces \$19 Million to Drive Down Solar Soft Costs, Increase Hardware Efficiency\***

In support of the Obama Administration's effort to advance our clean energy economy and support American innovation, the Energy Department today announced \$19 million to reduce both hardware and non-hardware costs of solar and to drive greater solar energy deployment in the United States. For more information, please visit: <http://energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-announces-19-million-drive-down-solar-soft-costs-increase-hardware>.



# Funding Opportunities

**December 16:** [Urban Waters Small Grants Program](http://www.nfwf.org/environmentalsolutions/Pages/2014rfp.aspx) \$40,000 to \$60,000 each

**December 16:** Wells Fargo and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Environmental Solutions for Communities Grants Program – Grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 each

<http://www.nfwf.org/environmentalsolutions/Pages/2014rfp.aspx>

**\*January 3:** *Georgetown Climate Center* Legal and Policy Support for Climate Change Impact Response <http://www.georgetownclimate.org/application-for-requesting-in-kind-legal-and-policy-support-for-adaptation-projects-from-the-georget>

**\*January 8:** *Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable* Local Sustainability Matching Fund: Round Four <http://www.fundersnetwork.org/participate/green-building/local-sustainability-matching-fund/>

**January 13:** National Endowment for the Arts FY 2014 Our Town Initiative – Grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$200,000 each, <http://arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town/grant-program-description>

**January 15: The Forest Service’s Community Forest and Open Space Program – \$4 million**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/cfp.shtml>

**\* January 17: USDA’s Conservation Stewardship Program,** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=STELPRDB1239621>

**\* January 22: FY2014 Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants** <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/grants-funding.htm#epa-oswer-oblr-13-05>

**\* January 23: WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants** <http://www.grants.gov/custom/viewOppDetails.jsp?oppld=247642>

**\* January 23: Indoor Air and Climate Change** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=245553>

**\* February 5: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Funding Available,** <http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx>

**\* February 18: EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreements Program** <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-cps-grants.html>

**February 20: National Science Foundation’s Energy for Sustainability** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=PD-14-7644>



## ***Meetings, Conferences, & Events***

**February 10-12, 2014: [Forward Thinking on the Front Range: A Smart Growth Tour](#)** – Denver, Colorado

**\* February 13: Equitable Development Workshop** – Denver, CO

[http://newpartners.org/2014/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Equitable\\_Development-NPSG14-Conference-Brochure.pdf](http://newpartners.org/2014/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Equitable_Development-NPSG14-Conference-Brochure.pdf)

**February, 13-15: New Partners for Smart Growth Annual Conference** – Denver, Colorado

<http://newpartners.org/>

**\* March 17-19: [The Funder's Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities — 2014 Annual Conference](#)** – Boston, Massachusetts

**March 27-29: National Green Schools Conference, Sacramento, California** <http://greenschoolsnationalnetwork.org/conference/>

**\* May 7-9: National Training Conference on the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and Environmental Conditions in Communities,** –

Arlington, Virginia <http://www2.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/2014-national-training-conference>

**May 18 -20: [2014 National Main Streets Conference](#)** – Detroit, Michigan

**June 4-7: [22nd Annual Congress for New Urbanism](#)** – Buffalo, New York



## ***Webinars & Conference Calls***

**\*EPA Webinar: Communications for Climate Programs, December 4, 11, and 18, 1-2:30 p.m. (EST)\***

EPA's *State and Local Climate and Energy Program* will host a three-part webcast series that will provide information on communication strategies and methods that state and local governments can use to ensure the ongoing success of climate and clean energy programs. Participants will learn how to design communications strategies to engage and empower stakeholders, use communications methods

to instigate and sustain behavior change and foster individual and community solutions, and effectively communicate their programs' successes and resulting benefits to diverse audiences. To register, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/web-podcasts/forum.html>.

**\*EPA Grant Preparation Webinar: FY2014 Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants, December 4\***

EPA's Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, tribes, and nonprofits to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse Brownfield sites. Redeveloping Brownfield sites promotes a smart growth agenda by revitalizing blighted urban areas, supporting local economic growth, and advancing environmental health. EPA provides three types of Brownfields grants: Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup. Application deadline: January 22, 2014. To register for the webinar, please visit: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2041533962606521857>.

**\*Department of Energy Webcast: December 4, 2-3:00 p.m. (EST) - Combined Heat and Power: Expanding CHP in Your State\***

This webinar will discuss Combined Heat and Power (CHP), also known as cogeneration, which refers to the simultaneous production of electricity and heat with distributed power-generation systems. Participants of this webinar will hear:

- An overview of CHP technology and deployment, including benefits of CHP, the state of the U.S. market, and things to consider when implementing CHP.

- A state example from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) of how implementation of CHP projects can be accelerated through programmatic implementation strategies.

- Best practices for CHP development from the National Governors Association policy academy.

Register at: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/706115942>.

**\*EPA Webinar: Construction Equipment Rebate Program, December 9, 1:00 (EST)\***

EPA will hold a webinar for interested applicants for the construction equipment rebate program on Monday, December 9th at 1pm EST. Space is limited, so please reserve your webinar seat now at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/679884552>.

The webinar slides are available at <http://epa.gov/cleandiesel/documents/2013-dera-rebate-webinar.pdf>. These slides will be covered in detail during the webinar with time for a question and answer session. Additionally, EPA created a Frequently Asked Questions document available [here](#). EPA will accept rebate application packages through January 15, 2014, at 4pm EST. Please visit our [program page](#) for more information, and please submit any questions about the rebate program to [cleandieselrebate@epa.gov](mailto:cleandieselrebate@epa.gov).

**\*Webinar: Water Partnerships One Year Later December 10, 2:00 p.m. (EST)\***

This free, one-hour webinar will describe the progress made since United Water and global investment firm KKR signed a water partnership deal with Bayonne, N.J. in December 2012. Join us on Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. Eastern Time (1 p.m. CST; noon MST; and 11 a.m. PST). Many cities like Bayonne are seeking to limit water and sewer tariff increases while crumbling infrastructure and new regulatory requirements cause ever-increasing demands for capital improvements and spending. The ability to unlock value in existing water and wastewater assets to reduce outstanding indebtedness and/or fund new capital projects while also reducing operational costs, better managing risks, and securing long-term guarantees are among the benefits several other cities are considering by opting for alternative financing approaches. Learn what United Water's solution has meant for Bayonne over the first year since the deal was closed. [Click here to register.](#)

**\*ENERGY STAR Webcast: December 10, 3-3:15 p.m. (EST) – Financing Energy Efficient Upgrades with ENERGY STAR\***

Learn how public sector organizations are improving energy efficiency with innovative solutions to financial barriers. Attendees will learn about financing projects in the public and private sectors, the basics of performance contracting, and how EPA's tools and resources can help you make the decision to improve your facilities now or later. [Click here to register.](#)

**\*Overview of EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager: A Tool to Measure and Track Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, December 11, 1:00-2:30 p.m. (EST)\***



EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager is an online tool organizations can use to measure and track energy and water consumption, as well as GHG emissions. It can be used to benchmark the performance of one building or a whole portfolio of buildings, all in a secure online environment. Forty percent of commercial building space in the U.S., including 35% of the Fortune 500® are already benchmarking in Portfolio Manager. In this webinar sponsored by EPA's Center for Corporate Leadership, attendees will learn about the new, updated version of Portfolio Manager - what it is and how it can be used - as well as hear from guest speakers – including the NYC Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability - who have used the tool to help achieve their organizations' sustainability and carbon goals. [Click here to register.](#)

**\*ENERGY STAR Webcast: December 11, 2-3:30 p.m. (EST) – ENERGY STAR and Green Building Rating Systems\***

During this session, attendees will learn how to use EPA tools and resources to help meet requirements for green building rating systems such as the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the Green Globes system, and others. Learn about the importance of energy efficiency in the broader scope of sustainability. Discover which green building rating systems require the use of EPA ENERGY STAR tools. Learn how you can leverage EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager and Target Finder tools to help your buildings earn certification under any of these rating systems. See how four state and local governments have successfully leveraged EPA ENERGY STAR tools and resources to pursue LEED and other certification types for their buildings. [Click here to register.](#)

**\*ENERGY STAR Webcast: Portfolio Manager 101, December 12, 2-3:30 p.m. (EST)\***

Join us as we introduce and demonstrate the core functionality of EPA's new ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool. Attendees will learn how to: navigate the new Portfolio Manager; add a property and enter details about it; enter energy and water consumption data; share properties; generate performance reports to assess progress; and respond to data requests. [Click here to register.](#)

**\*Webinar: Lessons Learned in Linking Land Use and Transportation, December 12, 12-1:30 p.m. (EST)\***

Presented by the *Institute of Transportation Engineers*, this webinar will highlight the importance of local right-of-way preservation and thoroughfare plans in linking land use and transportation. The relationship between Complete Streets and transportation/land use will be examined, as well as lessons learned in Florida, Ohio, Georgia, and Colorado. To register for the webinar, please visit: [http://www.ite.org/education/webinars\\_landuse.asp](http://www.ite.org/education/webinars_landuse.asp).

**\*Building Your Internal Network: Making the Switch to Green Power, December 17, 1-2:00 PM (EST)\***

Sponsored by EPA's Green Power Partnership (GPP), this webinar will address one of the most important elements of organizational clean energy/sustainability strategy: effectively engaging allies across the enterprise. Particularly for on-site and utility-scale green power opportunities, sustainability and energy staff find that they need to coordinate or collaborate with multiple additional functions within their organization - be it a corporate, institutional or governmental organization. Building the support of an internal network can make all the difference when it comes to making a purchase or installing green power on-site. In this webinar, we will discuss how to build this network, how to leverage other stakeholders' key issues and address their challenges, and who needs to be involved. [Click here to register.](#)

**\*ENERGY STAR Webcast: Portfolio Manager 201, December 19, 1-2:30 p.m. (EST)\***

Continue to learn about EPA's new ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool, with a deeper dive into more advanced functionalities such as: Managing and tracking changes to your property uses over time; Using spreadsheet templates to update property data; Setting goals and targets to plan energy improvements for properties; Generating and using custom reports; and Using the Sustainable Buildings Checklist [Click here to register.](#)

**\*EJ Collaborative Problem Solving Cooperative Agreements Pre-Application Calls\***

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice announces the opening of its Request for Applications (RFA) for the 2014 Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program. The (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program provides funding for eligible applicants for projects that address local environmental and/or public health issues within an affected community.

The EJGPS Program is designed to help eligible non-profit and Native American communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks at the local level. The total estimated available funding for awards under this competitive opportunity is \$1,200,000. Awards will be made in amounts of up to \$120,000 per award for a two year project period. Interested applicants are invited to participate in a series of conference calls with EPA to address questions about the EJGPS Program and this solicitation. Participants may access the pre-application assistance calls by dialing 1-866-299-3188 and entering the code 202-564-1771 when prompted. The following are the conference call dates and times:

Date	Time (Eastern Standard)
Wednesday, December 11, 2013	4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 9, 2014	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 15, 2014 (en Español)	4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 25, 2014	1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 5, 2014	5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

For more information regarding the EJGPS Program, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-cps-grants.html> or contact Sheritta Woodruff Taylor at (202) 564-1771 or [taylor.sheritta@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.sheritta@epa.gov).



# Green Schools

**\*Waste in Place (KAB) Webinar Dec. 4, 2013, 3-4:00 p.m.\***

Waste in Place is an educational resource guide including over 100 activities and enrichments for pre-K to sixth grade students that build environmental knowledge and foster stewardship, pride and individual responsibility among young people. Activities range from Litter Bag exploring the impact of litter on the environment to MRF in Action exploring the operations of a Materials Recovery Facility to Our Natural Resources focusing on native plants and composting. The guide features characters that children may interact on daily life including an educator, day care operator and a frog named Buddy. Session will include discussion on the behavioral change ideas that form the foundation of the activities. Trainers will share how to use the activities in classroom, outdoor settings, Earth Day programs, and/or special events. In the past two years, more than 2.5 million American students of all ages were exposed to KAB’s “Waste in Place” education resource guide, sponsored by the Wrigley Company Foundation, attend this webinar and learn more about sharing Waste in Place with your students. Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/225248096>.

**\*Webinar: Make Your Existing School a High Performance School, December 10, 2 p.m. (EST)\***

Join CHPS for a free introductory one-hour webinar on the CHPS Operations Report Card. Participants will learn how they can use the program – designed for use both district-wide and in individual schools – to benchmark, analyze and get recommendations for improvements in school indoor air quality, thermal comfort, visual comfort, acoustics, and energy efficiency. The presentation will also explore case studies of schools and districts that have used the CHPS ORC. For more information, please visit: <http://www.chps.net/dev/Drupal/orc>.

**\*ClimateChangeLIVE Education Resources Highlights – Part 2 (USFS) December 11, 7:30-9:00 p.m.\***

ClimateChangeLIVE distance learning adventure, brings you a wealth of climate change education resources and programs from 17 Federal agencies and non-profit organizations! We offer educators, a source of trusted, science-based materials, which are correlated to science education standards. This webinar highlights climate change education resources from three of our partners. Project Learning Tree and the U.S. Forest Service will introduce their GreenSchools! program and how you can foster student-led efforts to move your school toward sustainability. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will highlight their Student Climate & Conservation Congress. The Forest Service will highlight the Natural Inquirer science education journal's Climate Collection which takes real-life Forest Service research, and engages students in the science inquiry method, along with activities tied to the research. Register [here](#).

**\*Renovate Right: EPAs Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Program at Schools (EPA) December 17, 3-4:00 p.m.\***

- In this webinar you will learn about the health effects of lead on children and how the RRP Rule applies to K-12 schools. You will also discover ways that school and early learning professionals can protect their students from lead poisoning. Register [here](#).

**\*Professional Development Programs for Climate Change Education (USFS) January 29, 7:30-9:00 p.m.\***

In this webinar, ClimateChangeLIVE partners highlight professional development programs to empower you as a climate change educator! Each program offers training to increase your understanding of essential climate concepts and provide you with tools and resources to implement a science-based climate change curriculum in your classroom and connect with networks of other educators teaching about climate change. Most of these programs offer grants to schools to help them implement climate change solution-related action projects, and include on-site and online training opportunities. Register [here](#).

**\*GreenWorks! Action Grants for ClimateChangeLIVE Participants (USFS) February 19, 7:30-9:00 p.m.\***

School classes that participate in ClimateChangeLIVE will be eligible to apply for GreenWorks! Grants! Join us and learn about these opportunities to help your school accomplish action projects that address climate change solutions. Project Learning Tree and U.S. Forest Service staff will present an overview of the grant parameters and how you can apply. We'll also highlight success stories from schools in our GreenSchools! program that have done exciting projects with these grants. Register [here](#).

**Green Ribbon Schools Award Program for State of California – Applications Due December 27**

The U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) recognition award honors schools that are exemplary in reducing environmental impact and costs; improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and providing effective environmental and sustainability education, which incorporates science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), civic skills and green career pathways. The recognition award is part of a larger U.S. Department of Education (ED) effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about practices that are proven to result in improved student engagement, higher academic achievement, and graduation rates, and workforce preparedness, as well as a government-wide goal of increasing energy independence and economic security. K-12 public and private schools, early learning centers, and school districts are eligible for ED-GRS. Apply now at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/fa/sf/greenribbonprog.asp>.

**March 27-29: National Green Schools Conference, Sacramento, California <http://greenschoolsnationalnetwork.org/conference/>**



## *Other Community-Related Information & Events*

### **\*Greening America's Capitals in Baton Rouge, Des Moines, Frankfort, Helena, and Indianapolis\***

In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Transportation, EPA's Greening America's Capitals Program provides design assistance to help our nation's capitals develop an implementable vision for environmentally friendly neighborhoods that incorporate innovative [green infrastructure strategies](#). Look to [EPA's new reports](#) on Baton Rouge, LA; Des Moines, IA; Frankfort, KY; Helena, MT; and Indianapolis, -IN for design ideas that might help your city address its stormwater problems and also spur new economic development.

- Baton Rouge received assistance to plan a greenway in the heart of Louisiana's capital that will connect Louisiana State University with the downtown.
- Des Moines received assistance to incorporate green infrastructure elements into a proposed streetscape plan for a one-mile segment of 6th Avenue.
- Frankfort received assistance to enhance the Second Street corridor between the historic downtown and the state capitol.
- Helena received assistance to improve Last Chance Gulch, a street that connects the Helena business district with the historic downtown.
- Indianapolis received assistance to enhance the walkability of streets and revitalize public plazas in and around the Market Square Redevelopment Area.

View the reports at: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/greencapitals.htm>.

### **\*EPA's New Publication: Using Smart Growth Strategies to Create More Resilient Communities in the Washington, DC, Region\***

This new publication from *EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities* gives local governments in the metropolitan Washington area some policy options to consider when preparing for climate risks. Change-related risks related to land use, transportation, water, and buildings sectors are all discussed. While the guide was developed for the DC region, it will also be useful for other cities, suburbs, and rural settings with similar climate risks. To view the publication, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/mwcog-guidebook-final-508-111313.pdf>.

### **\*National Drought Resilience Partnership Launched\***

As part of the President's Climate Action Plan, the Obama Administration recently launched a National Drought Resilience Partnership. The Partnership will align federal drought policies and help communities manage the impact of drought. During its first year the Partnership will undertake a pilot project in a western area hard hit by drought to create a local-scale drought resilience plan that could be applied in other areas. For more information, please visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/11/15/introducing-national-drought-resilience-partnership>.

### **\*EPA Honors Graduates of Environmental Job Training Program\***

The U.S. EPA recognized 37 graduates from the Cypress Mandela Training Center for completing professional environmental remediation training at an award ceremony held at the State of California Transportation auditorium in Oakland, Calif. Students were partially funded by a \$200,000 grant from the EPA Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program. The graduates from the Cypress Mandela Training Center gained the expertise necessary to secure skilled jobs in environmental remediation, construction, and utility professions. Bay Area organizations have received more than \$4.8 million in EPA job training funds since 1999 and, in 2013 alone, more than 165 people in the Bay Area have been trained to work in the environmental cleanup industry. As of May 2013, more than 11,000 Americans have completed training through the support of this program, of which, more than 8,000 have obtained employment in the environmental field. For more information about EPA's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/job.htm#bro>.

### **\*Researchers Make Business Case for Sustainability\***

Local governments are increasingly adopting sustainability-based initiatives, but many of them limit their efforts to those within their direct control such as bike paths, greening public buildings, community recycling programs, LED street lighting retrofits, etc. The vast majority do not seek to proactively engage the local business community in their sustainability efforts. Now, two Colorado researchers are working with local governments to study and engage small and mid-sized companies (SMEs) in the path to sustainability.

In the coming weeks and months, Sustainable City Network will be following the Sustainability4SMEs research project being conducted by Graham Russell and Martha Young. As the project develops, the researchers will post periodic reports and present case studies and best practices as they emerge. For more information, please view:

[http://www.sustainablecitynetwork.com/topic\\_channels/policy/article\\_b545ecdc-579a-11e3-88f9-0019bb30f31a.html?utm\\_source=SCN+InBox+e-Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=7451746521-Newsletter\\_11-27-2013\\_Admin&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_11e7ac761c-7451746521-188541149](http://www.sustainablecitynetwork.com/topic_channels/policy/article_b545ecdc-579a-11e3-88f9-0019bb30f31a.html?utm_source=SCN+InBox+e-Newsletter&utm_campaign=7451746521-Newsletter_11-27-2013_Admin&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_11e7ac761c-7451746521-188541149).

**\*2014 National Training Conference on the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and Environmental Conditions in Communities\***

Announcing the Call for Abstracts for the 2014 National Training Conference on the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and Environmental Conditions in Communities! Now is the time to think about potential presentations, posters, or exhibit booths you or your colleagues would like to be a part of. This is a great opportunity to present research, share insights, and network with others interested in toxics and communities. Check out the potential session topics and guidelines in the Call for Abstracts link on the [conference website](#). Submit your proposal for consideration by December 13, 2013. The conference will be held May 7-9, 2014 at the [Hilton Crystal City](#) in Arlington, Virginia and include sessions on pollution prevention, environmental justice, and environmental public health, along with TRI and other sources of environmental information. The conference will be cosponsored by EPA and our new grantee, Dillard University's [Deep South Center for Environmental Justice](#) (DSCEJ). DSCEJ has been awarded a five-year cooperative agreement to partner with the TRI Program. DSCEJ was founded in 1992 in collaboration with community environmental groups and other universities in the region to address environmental justice issues. For more information, please visit: <http://www2.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/2014-national-training-conference>.

**\*New Resource: Free Video Tutorials for PV Installers\***

As part of a SunShot-funded project, Sandia National Laboratory and New Mexico State University recently released [Photovoltaic Guide Post: Multimedia Tutorials for PV Code Inspectors and Installers](#), a free online training portal offering video tutorials focusing on specialized PV installation and inspection topics. This new resource aims to meet the growing training needs of the rapidly-growing U.S. solar energy work force. [Watch the videos](#).

**\*Thirteen States Receive Energy Department Awards to Drive Greater Energy Efficiency, Save Money\***

Building on the Obama Administration's efforts to double energy productivity by 2030 and help communities save on energy bills, the Energy Department today awarded nearly \$4 million to 13 states to increase statewide energy savings and boost the energy efficiency of public institutions, local governments, and industrial sectors. [Read the full story here](#).

**\*Rooftop Solar Challenge II Winners Announced\***

SunShot recently announced the selection of eight regional teams that will lead innovative new projects to spur solar power deployment by cutting red tape for residential and small commercial rooftop solar systems. As part of the Rooftop Solar Challenge, these teams will receive about \$12 million—matched by more than \$4 million in outside funding—to streamline and standardize solar permitting, zoning, metering, and connection processes for communities across the country. [Read the press release](#) and [learn more about the teams](#).

**Applications Now Being Accepted for Smart Growth America’s 2014 Free Technical Assistance Workshops**

Smart Growth America is now accepting applications for its 2014 free technical assistance workshops. Communities interested in learning about smart growth strategies are welcome and encouraged to submit an application for one of 12 types of technical assistance workshops. Smart Growth America's free technical assistance workshops program, now in its third year, helps city and regional leaders find solutions to local issues and concerns. These workshops help participating communities to grow in ways that benefit families and businesses while protecting the environment and preserving a sense of place. Smart Growth America will again offer 12 types of workshops as part of the free program. These include:



- Implementing smart growth 101
- Planning for economic and fiscal health
- Regional planning for small communities
- Sustainable land use code audit
- Smart growth zoning codes for small cities
- Complete streets
- Walkability workshop/audit
- Transportation performance measurement
- Parking audit
- Implementing transit-oriented development 101
- Cool planning: local strategies to slow climate change
- Using LEED-ND to accelerate the development of sustainable communities

How to apply: Any unit or subdivision of local government, Indian tribe or regional government is eligible to apply for these free workshops. Communities should select one workshop per application; applicants may submit additional applications for more than one workshop. Applications are due by Friday, December 6, 2013 at 5:00 PM EST. In addition to annual free workshops, Smart Growth America’s technical assistance is available year round for a fee. Our expert staff can help your community achieve its development goals. [Learn more on Smart Growth America's website.](#)

**EPA Releases Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data from Large Facilities**

Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its third year of greenhouse gas data detailing carbon pollution emissions and trends broken down by industrial sector, greenhouse gas, geographic region, and individual facility. The data, required to be collected annually by Congress, highlight a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions as more utilities switch to cleaner burning natural gas. The 2012 data show that in the two years since reporting began, emissions from power plants have decreased 10 percent. This is due to a switch from coal to natural gas for electricity generation and a slight decrease in electricity production. The data are accessible through EPA’s online data publication tool, FLIGHT, which is available for both desktop and mobile devices. This year, with three years of data for most sources, FLIGHT has been updated with new features, including the ability to view trend graphs by sector and facility, and download charts and graphs for use in presentations and reports. The data are also published through EnviroFacts, which allows the public to download data for further analyses. Access EPA’s GHG Reporting Program Data and Data Publication Tool: <http://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting/>. Access EnviroFacts: <http://epa.gov/enviro/>.

**EPA Awards \$400,000 to Communities to Reduce Water Pollution, Build Resilience to Climate Change - *Communities in Rhode Island, Michigan, Nebraska, Indiana, Arizona, and South Carolina will receive funding for green infrastructure***

**The** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced \$400,000 to help six communities expand their use of green infrastructure to reduce water pollution and boost resilience to the impacts of climate change. The funding is in support of President Obama’s Climate Action Plan, which directs federal agencies to identify climate-resilient investments such as agency grants and technical assistance for communities across the country. This new funding continues the agency’s support for communities using green infrastructure to reduce water pollution and protect human health while increasing economic activity and neighborhood revitalization, job creation, energy savings, and open space. Green infrastructure builds resilience to the impacts of climate change, particularly by reducing the burden on local water infrastructure. In the last two years, EPA has provided \$1.35 million to more than 20 communities for green infrastructure. To share lessons learned from green infrastructure projects, EPA is releasing a series of reports highlighting the work of communities that received technical assistance from the agency in 2012, including Denver, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Portland. To learn about the six communities, and for more information on the green infrastructure assistance, progress reports and strategy visit: [http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/gi\\_support.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/gi_support.cfm).

**EPA Recognizes WaterSense Partners of the Year for their Efforts in Promoting Water Efficiency**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is recognizing its 2013 WaterSense Partners of the Year, including two partners who received the first-ever WaterSense Sustained Excellence awards in recognition of their continuous high level of support. The Partner of the Year awards program recognizes the commitment of WaterSense partners in promoting water efficiency to the American public. The award winners’ efforts, along with those of more than 2,700 other WaterSense partners, have helped Americans save 487 billion gallons of water and \$8.9 billion in water and energy bills. View a list of winners and learn more about the 2013 Sustained Excellence Award winners, WaterSense Partners of the Year, and Excellence Award winners at [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

**Energy Department Announces Topics and New Approaches for Grants to Small Businesses in Clean Energy Technologies**

The Energy Department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) today announced new topics under its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Technology Transfer (STTR) program that will help small businesses develop innovative ideas and deliver market-driven solutions. EERE's areas of interest range from energy-saving buildings and manufacturing to sustainable transportation and renewable electricity generation.

[Click here to read the full story](#)

**Energy Department Announces \$60 Million to Drive Affordable, Efficient Solar Power**

Building on President Obama's broad-based plan to cut carbon pollution and support clean energy innovation across the country, Energy Secretary Moniz announced today about \$60 million to support innovative solar energy research and development. As part of the Department's SunShot Initiative, these awards will help lower the cost of solar electricity, advance seamless grid integration, and support a growing U.S. solar workforce. [Click here to read the full story](#).

**Energy Efficient Communities Can Compete for \$5 Million Prize**

As a nation, we have yet to fully tap into the enormous potential that energy efficiency offers to get more from existing resources, support increased resource productivity and economic growth, and enable individuals and entire communities to save money. The \$5 million Georgetown University Energy Prize is calling on all parties—community members, local government, and utilities—to work together to reduce per capita energy use in a substantial and lasting way. Although only one community will win the \$5 million prize, all participants will receive access to one-on-one technical assistance, annual workshops, case studies from other communities, tips for household energy conservation, opportunities to apply for seed grants, and direct engagement with federal policymakers. Interested community representatives can complete a Letter Of Intent and sign up for updates as the competition prepares to kick off in 2014. To find out if you live in one of the 8,892 U.S. communities eligible to compete, and to learn how the Georgetown University Energy Prize can help your community showcase its leadership, ingenuity, and commitment to improving energy efficiency, please visit [www.quep.org](http://www.quep.org). For regular updates on the Georgetown University Energy Prize, follow the competition on Twitter at @GUEnergyPrize. *Web Link:* <http://www.quep.org>

**Energy Department Announces Partnerships to Help Deploy Combined Heat and Power, Boost Industrial Efficiency**

Underscoring President Obama's Climate Action Plan to cut harmful emissions and double energy efficiency, the Energy Department is taking action to develop the next generation of combined heat and power (CHP) technology and help local communities and businesses make cost-effective investments that save money and energy. As part of this effort, the Department launched today seven new regional Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance Partnerships across the country to help strengthen U.S. manufacturing competitiveness, lower energy consumption, and reduce harmful emissions. [Click here to read the full story](#).

**Training Opportunities with ENERGY STAR**

Before heading out on vacation for turkey, pumpkin pie, and all your other Thanksgiving favorites, be sure to get yourself an extra helping of energy efficiency trainings! Join EPA's ENERGY STAR program for commercial buildings to learn about a wide range of topics, including energy competitions, benchmarking water use, leveraging the ENERGY STAR brand in communications, and using the new Portfolio Manager tool. To register for upcoming trainings, click the links below or visit [esbuildings.webex.com](http://esbuildings.webex.com). If you won't be able to attend, you can still view recorded trainings at this site (click "View Event Recordings" in the upper right-hand corner of the screen). If you have any questions, please contact [estraining@icfi.com](mailto:estraining@icfi.com).

**SunShot Announces \$60 Million to Drive Affordable, Efficient Solar Power**

Building on President Obama’s broad-based plan to cut carbon pollution and support clean energy innovation across the country, the SunShot Initiative has announced \$60 million to support innovative solar energy research and development. The awards will help lower the cost of solar electricity, advance seamless grid integration and support a growing U.S. solar workforce. [Click here to learn more.](#)

**EPA Honors Freight Industry Leaders for Environmental Achievements**

EPA is honoring 55 companies as industry leaders in supply chain environmental and energy efficiency with its 2013 SmartWay Excellence Awards. These awards go to companies that have demonstrated outstanding achievements in reducing carbon pollution and other harmful emissions as they move goods across the U.S. more efficiently. EPA launched the SmartWay partnership program in 2004 to help the freight industry improve environmental performance. Since then, SmartWay Partners have saved 65 million barrels of oil. This is equivalent to taking over 5 million cars off the road for an entire year. SmartWay’s clean air achievements (28 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, 478,000 tons nitrogen oxides, and 22,000 tons of particulate matter reduced) help to protect the health and well-being of citizens and provide for a more competitive business environment. More information on SmartWay: <http://www.epa.gov/smartway/>. List of Excellence Award recipients: <http://www.epa.gov/smartway/partner-resources/awards.htm>.

**Energy Department Announces Winners of Housing Innovation Awards**

The Energy Department announced winners of the first- ever Housing Innovation Awards, recognizing 46 diverse industry leaders bringing the best in energy efficient building technologies and design to new and older homes and helping households save money. The competition, coordinated by the [Energy Department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy](#), offered rigorous application criteria within four building categories: [DOE Challenge Home Builders](#), [Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Participating Contractors](#), Excellence in Building Science Educator of the Year, and [Building America Top Innovations](#). The Housing Innovation Awards recognize leading builders, contractors, researchers, national laboratories, and building science organizations who are helping communities across the country save money and energy and are leading the way to affordable, comfortable, zero net-energy ready homes. The Housing Innovation Awards support the Energy Department's commitment to help harness American ingenuity to commercialize and deploy cutting-edge technologies, as well as to promote improving the energy efficiency of the U.S. housing stock. [Click here to read the full story.](#)

**DOT Awards University Transportation Centers \$63 Million**

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) on September 26 announced approximately \$63 million in grants to 33 University Transportation Centers to advance research and education programs that address critical transportation challenges. The selected universities will research a wide range of transportation-related issues including: improving health and safety for all users of the transportation system, including bicycles, pedestrians, and transit modes; reducing carbon emissions and other environmental impacts of transportation through a transition to zero-emission vehicles and fuels; and evaluating how increasingly autonomous vehicles affect driver behavior, safety, and performance. See the [DOT press release](#) and the [list of grant recipients](#).

**Bicycle-Friendly Communities Announced**

The League of American Bicyclists recently announced its annual selection of Bicycle Friendly Communities (BFC). Several suburban towns, including Menlo Park, California; Elmhurst, Illinois; and Ferguson, Missouri were chosen for the award, demonstrating that large urban centers aren't the only areas making biking better for millions of Americans. From the latest round of applications, the League chose 32 new BFCs, growing the overall number to 291 BFCs in 48 states. The BFC program provides cities and towns with a roadmap and know-how to make effective investments and take meaningful steps to increase bicycling in their communities. For more information, please visit: <http://www.bikeleague.org/content/suburbs-join-rise-bicycle-friendly-communities>.



**Report: U.S. States Advancing Energy Efficiency**

States have been essential to the progress the United States has made in using energy more efficiently, according to a new paper released on September 24 by the National Governors Association (NGA). States play a critical role in advancing energy efficiency and are supporting efforts to help consumers lower their energy costs, reduce state energy expenditures, defer the need for new power plant investments, strengthen system reliability, and reduce environmental impacts. According to the paper, governors have worked with legislators, regulators, and others to advance energy efficiency in a variety of ways. Examples of recent state actions include conducting energy planning to analyze potential energy savings and explore best practices, improving energy efficiency rules and standards for buildings and appliances, and using information technology to spur enhanced energy savings by consumers and businesses. See the [NGA press release](#).

**EPA Honors 24 Organizations for Green Power Leadership**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented its 13th annual Green Power Leadership Awards to 21 Green Power Partners and three suppliers for their achievements in advancing the nation’s renewable electricity market. By using green power, communities, businesses and organizations can dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support America’s growing renewable energy industry, improve public health, and help transition the United States to cleaner energy sources. The winning organizations are recognized for dramatically increasing their green power purchases, installing large-scale solar panel arrays, and leading innovative renewable energy procurement efforts, among other actions. To view the 2013 Green Power Leadership Award winners, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/awards/winners.htm>.

**USDA Awards \$14 million for Smart Grid Technology**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on October 24 announced funding for rural electric utility system improvements, including more than \$14.3 million to implement smart grid technology and nearly \$11 million to improve electric service for Native Americans. In Georgia, the Colquitt Electric Membership Corporation will receive a \$9.8 million loan guarantee for smart grid projects. And in New Mexico, the Sierra Electric Cooperative's \$4.3 million loan guarantee includes \$536,000 for smart grid projects. With this latest announcement, the Obama Administration has invested \$152 million in smart grid technologies nationwide during 2013. See the [USDA press release](#).

**New Book: Measuring Urban Design: Metrics for Livable Places\***

This new book provides researchers, designers, planners, and lay people with an empirically tested tool to measure the elusive qualities that make us want to take a stroll down a neighborhood street. The book contains illustrated, step-by-step instructions and a scoring sheet for easy calculation of urban design quality scores. Operational definitions are included, as well as measurement protocols for five intangible qualities of urban design: imagability, visual enclosure, human scale, transparency, and complexity. For more information, please visit: [http://islandpress.org/ip/books/book/islandpress/M/bo8383101.html?utm\\_source=Ewing+MUD+50-70%25+email+2013%2F10%2F24&utm\\_campaign=Author+Reid+Ewing+50-70+book+eblast&utm\\_medium=email](http://islandpress.org/ip/books/book/islandpress/M/bo8383101.html?utm_source=Ewing+MUD+50-70%25+email+2013%2F10%2F24&utm_campaign=Author+Reid+Ewing+50-70+book+eblast&utm_medium=email).

**Energy Department Invests \$12 Million to Slash Red Tape and Speed Solar Deployment for Homes and Businesses**

As part of the Obama Administration's efforts to ensure America's continued leadership in clean energy and double renewable electricity generation once again by 2020, the Energy Department today announced [eight teams to spur solar power deployment](#) by cutting red tape for residential and small commercial rooftop solar systems. [Click here to read the full story](#),

**Energy Department Announces Federal Energy and Water Management Awards**

The Energy Department today recognized 25 winners across the federal government as recipients of the 2013 Federal Energy and Water Management Awards. These annual awards highlight federal agencies' commitments to lead the nation in implementing efficiency measures to improve energy, water, and vehicle fleet management that save taxpayer money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. [Click here to read the full story](#).

**Draft EPA Office of Water Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plan Released for Public Review and Comment**

EPA has released its draft Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plans for public review and comment, including the plan of the Office of Water. The implementation plans provide detailed information about the actions EPA plans to take to help communities adapt to a changing climate. The impacts of a changing climate, including increased extreme weather, floods, and droughts, affect EPA's work to protect clean air and water. The Draft EPA Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plans recognize that EPA must integrate climate adaptation planning into its programs, policies, rules, and operations to ensure that the Agency's work continues to be effective even as the climate changes. The Office of Water's Plan provides an overview of the opportunities available within the EPA to respond to the challenges that a changing climate poses to protect the quality of national water resources and drinking water. The public comment period closes on January 3, 2014. For more information, visit the [EPA Adaptation Implementation Plans page](#).

**EPA Updates its Sustainable Design and Green Building Toolkit for Communities**

Earlier this year, EPA released an updated version of its [Sustainable Design and Green Building Toolkit for Local Governments](#) (PDF), designed to help local governments identify and remove barriers to sustainable design and green building in existing codes and ordinances. The toolkit discusses codes and ordinances that would affect the design, construction, renovation, and operation and maintenance of a building and its immediate site. The toolkit includes an assessment tool and resource guide, along with a guide to developing an action plan for implementing changes within a community’s permitting process.

**Energy Department Launches Alternative Fueling Station Locator App**

As part of the Obama Administration's commitment to expand access to data and give consumers more transportation options that save money at the pump, the Energy Department today launched a new mobile app to help drivers find stations that provide alternative fuel for vehicles. [Click here to read the full story](#).

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